[10th August 1929

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Did the Government make any enquiries in the matter ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— "Yes."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" What kind of enquiry did they make ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " We received a report from the Police Department."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Government propose to take any steps to punish their police for committing such mistakes, to compensate this gentleman who was put to a long term of imprisonment and pin-pricks by the Government starting a case which they knew must fail ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " No, Sir."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Was a mistake committed by arresting a wrong person ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " No, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" How many adjournments were taken by the Police ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Notice."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I ask for what period this case was pending against him ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" For about three months."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether, during these three months, the Police took care to find out if any real crime was committed by Mr. Gupta ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Police tried to cook evidence against this gentleman and gave it up afterwards as hopeless ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

Suppression of bucket shops in the City of Madras.

* 281 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the alarming rise in the number of bucket shops in the City of Madras ;

(*b*) whether he proposes to take any steps to control or abolish the same, pending the passing of the Bill on the subject ;

10th August 1929]

(*c*) when the Bucket Shops Bill is likely to be brought up before the Legislative Council if at all for being finally passed ; and

(*d*) what are the reasons for the delay ?

A.—(*a*) The Government are aware that there are many bucket shops in the city.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) At the next meeting of the Council.

(*d*) The Select Committee's Report is being examined.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know with regard to answer (*b*), the reason why he does not propose to abolish the bucket shops, pending the passing of the Bill, seeing that poor families are ruined ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I may tell my hon. Friend that I had consultations with the Commissioner of Police. He tells me that he has no powers in the matter."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" In view of that statement, may I know if the Government are taking steps to expedite the passing of this Bill ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— 11-45 a.m.
" When the Bucket Shops Bill left the Select Committee, certain questions were raised by Mr. Cunningham, the Commissioner of Police, that the provisions of the Bill were not very drastic. In order to settle the matter I came to Madras from Ootacamund a fortnight earlier. When I came here, I found that my Friend, Mr. James, was also of the opinion that the Bill should be a little more drastics and sent certain amendments to the Council Office. I then convened a conference at which Mr. Hearson, Mr. James, the Chief Secretary and myself were present. We discussed the question and came to the conclusion that Government should consider the question whether the Bill should not be made a little more drastic. For this purpose, I thought that I could bring the Bill at the next meeting."

Mr. Ramanath Goenka :—" Who was responsible for this conference, Sir ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I was responsible for it, Sir, in the interests of the Bill itself."

Mr. Ramanath Goenka :—" Is it not a fact that as a consequence of the ordinance in Ceylon, some bucket shopkeepers came here recently ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " Notice, Sir."

Mr. Ramanath Goenka :—" Is the Government aware, Sir, that as a consequence of the ordinance in Ceylon, all the bucket shops were closed there and the shopkeepers made their way to the City of Madras ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I have no information."

Mr. Ramanath Goenka :—" May I know when the Select Committee's Report will be ready, Sir ? "

[10th August 1929

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Select Committee's Report is ready, Sir. It is now in the Legislative Council Office, as the hon. Member knows."

Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA :—" I should like to know for how many months this Report of the Select Committee has been ready and did not the hon. the Home Member promise even then that the Bill would be introduced in the Council in this session ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not understand the question, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member how many months ago the report became ready ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The report was ready in March. I wanted to introduce the Bill in April, but I found later that certain members of the Select Committee did not send in their dissenting minutes. When Mr. Cunningham' dissenting minute was received by the Government, it was pointed out that the Bill was not properly drafted and it was therefore necessary that the Government should consider it again in order effectively to carry out the provisions."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if the same could not be done in the Council itself ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It was not possible, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know whether amendments for this purpose were moved in the Select Committee and were rejected ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes ; but when the Commissioner of Police thinks otherwise, the Government have to consider it again."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Are we therefore to understand, Sir, that the Government has no policy to place before this Council in respect of this matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government have their own policy, Sir."

Number of bucket shops in the City of Madras.

* 282 *Q.*—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many bucket shops otherwise called sports clubs have been started from October 1928 ; and

(*b*) what is the total strength of these clubs in the city at present ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have called for the information.